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# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND CO-ORDINATION ON THE SECOND PART OF ITS THIRTIETH SESSION*

* The present document contains the report of the Committee on the work of the second part of its thirtieth session. The report on the first part of that session was issued under the symbol A/45/16 (Part I) and Add.1. The complete report will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/45/16).

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# I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. The Committee for Programme and Co-ordination held its resumed thirtieth session at United Nations Headquarters from 17 to 22 September 1990. It held eight meetings (60th to 67th meetings) and a number of informal consultations.

## A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the resumed thirtieth session is reproduced in annex I.

## B. Attendance

3. The following States members of the Committee were represented:

Algeria
Argentina
Austria
Bahamas
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Benin
Cameroon
Canada
China
Colombia
Côte d'Ivoire
Cuba
France
Germany, Federal Republic of
India
Japan
Kenya
Mexico
Morocco
Pakistan
Poland
Romania
Sweden
Trinidad and Tobago
Uganda
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America
Venezuela
Yugoslavia
Zambia

4. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Brazil
Costa Rica
Egypt
Finland
Hungary
Italy
Netherlands
Norway
Portugal
Spain
Tunisia

5. The following specialized agencies were represented:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
World Health Organization

6. Also present at the session were the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budgeting and Finance, Controller, and other senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat.

## C. Documentation

7. The list of documents before the Committee at its resumed thirtieth session is contained in annex II.

## D. Adoption of the report of the Committee

8. At its 67th meeting, on 22 September, the Committee adopted the draft report on its resumed thirtieth session (E/AC.26/1990/L.7 and Add.1-5) as orally revised and amended during the discussion.



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## II. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

### A. Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

#### 1. Programme 45. African economic recovery, development and transformation

9. At its 62nd and 63rd meetings, on 18 and 19 September, the Committee considered the proposed programme 45 of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, entitled "African economic recovery, development and transformation".

#### Discussion

10. Several delegations welcomed the importance that the Secretary-General attached to the economic development of Africa. They urged the international community to translate its commitment into concrete actions to assist those countries, including financial resources. It was emphasized that co-ordination should be enhanced in order to ensure the effective implementation by the organizations of the system of intergovernmental decisions for African recovery and development. The proposed system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development could serve as a framework for that purpose. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) would have a leading role to play in the implementation of the programme.

11. Several delegations reaffirmed the priority assigned by the General Assembly to Africa and stressed that adequate resources should be provided to ensure full and effective implementation of the programme commensurate to its priority designation.

12. Some delegations felt that the General Assembly resolutions, except decision 44/411, cited in the subprogramme as legislative authority did not have direct relevance to the subprogramme. Other delegations did not share that view.

#### General recommendations

13. The Committee expressed general satisfaction with the substance and orientation of the programme, which had been prepared taking into account the comments made by the Committee at the first part of its current session. It felt that there should be further refinement of the programmatic content of the programme in the light of subsequent relevant decisions that may be taken by the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies, as well as at the final review and evaluation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 by the Assembly during its forty-sixth session.

14. The Committee recommended that emphasis should be put on the mobilization of resources.

15. The methodology and the format to be used in the preparation of the system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development should be similar to the one used for the preparation of the plan on drug abuse control, taking also

into account the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraph 146 of the Committee's report on the first part of its thirtieth session (A/45/16 (Part I) and Add.1).

16. The Secretary-General should provide all the necessary support for the implementation of the Programme.

## Conclusions and recommendations

17. The Committee recommended approval of programme 45 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with the following modifications:

(a) The title of the programme should be changed to read "Africa: Critical economic situation, recovery and development";

(b) The title of subprogramme 1 should be changed to read "Mobilization of resources", and the co-ordination aspects of the subprogramme should be incorporated into section 2, "Overall strategy and co-ordination";

(c) The title of subprogramme 2 should be changed to read "Monitoring, assessment and follow-up of the implementation of action programmes, including their financial aspects";

(d) The wording of paragraph 45.12 (b) should be changed to read "Monitoring, assessing and following up the evolution of African economic and social development with a view to assisting African countries, at the request of individual Governments, to identify and promote policies and activities ..." (rest of the paragraph unchanged);

(e) Specific activities assigned in the programme should be rearranged under the new subprogramme headings, in particular:

(i) Paragraphs 45.16 to 45.18 should be placed in section 2, "Overall strategy and co-ordination";

(ii) Subparagraphs 45.20 (a) (i) and (iii) should be put under subprogramme 3, "The campaign for global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa";

(iii) Activities listed in subparagraphs 45.28 (c) and (d) should be clearly linked to the mobilization of resources under subprogramme 1;

(f) Subparagraph 45.20 (b) should be incorporated in section 2, "Overall strategy and co-ordination";

(g) In subparagraph 45.20 (d) delete "including the preparation of documentation";

(h) In subparagraph 45.20 (a) (ii) replace "Policy measures" with "Concrete actions";

(i) In subparagraph 45.28 (c) replace "Policy and decision makers" with "donors";

(j) In subparagraph 45.28 (d) replace "enlist the support of these target groups" with "mobilize the necessary resources";

(k) The title of subprogramme 3 should read "The campaign for global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa";

(l) Insert a new subparagraph 45.7 (e) to read:

"Supporting African countries in their efforts to enhance their own endogenous capacity with a view to achieving sustained growth and development by, inter alia, providing, at the request of individual Governments, advice on appropriate economic policy reforms."

(m) Replace subparagraph 45.20 (e) (ii) with:

"To promote international efforts to improve the functioning of commodity markets with a view to achieving commodity price stabilization and predictability as well as assured compensatory arrangements and related programmes."

### 2. Programme 31. Regional co-operation for development in Asia and the Pacific

18. At its 66th meeting, on 21 September, the Committee was informed orally of the recommendations made by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, at its forty-sixth session, held from 4 to 13 June 1990, on the priority-setting for programme 31, Regional co-operation for development in Asia and the Pacific, (A/45/6 (Prog. 31)).

#### Conclusions and recommendations

19. The Committee took note of the information provided by the Secretariat.

20. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should give appropriate consideration to the question of priority-setting among subprogrammes when it reviewed programme 31 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 at its forty-fifth session.

## B. Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

21. At its 60th to 63rd meetings, on 17 to 19 September, the Committee considered the proposed programme budget outline submitted by the Secretary-General in his report (A/45/369) in accordance with paragraph 1 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986.

22. The Committee recalled that, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 41/213, and acting as the subsidiary organ of the Assembly, it would consider the outline of the programme budget and submit through the Fifth Committee its conclusions and recommendations. It also recalled that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions would consider the outline in accordance

with its terms of reference and submit its recommendations to the Assembly. It further recalled that on the basis of the decisions by the Assembly on the proposed outline for the programme budget 1992-1993, the Secretary-General would prepare his proposed programme budget for the following biennium.

23. The Committee further recalled that the outline of the forthcoming programme budget was an integral part of the process of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization in serving the international community.

24. The Committee examined the following four aspects of the proposed programme budget outline.

(a) Preliminary estimates of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium

25. The Committee noted the preliminary estimate proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 6 of his report.

26. The Committee recommends, in accordance with its mandate, that the preliminary estimate of resources presented by the Secretary-General constitute the basis for a decision by the General Assembly, taking into account the following:

(a) The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on this subject, in accordance with its mandate as stated in resolution 41/213;

(b) The estimate should be considered preliminary and take into account, in the light of paragraph 5 of the report of the Secretary-General, the implications of mandates that might be adopted by the General Assembly in 1990;

(c) The estimate should be adequate for the implementation of mandated activities of the Organization to be programmed for the next biennium within the framework of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997; the Committee stresses in this regard the recommendations it made on the proposed medium-term plan at both its spring and resumed sessions of 1990;

(d) The estimate should be seen in the perspective of providing the Organization with enough flexibility to undertake efficiently the tasks entrusted to it by the General Assembly through new and changing mandates;

(e) The estimate is of a global nature; in this regard, the Committee notes that the breakdown of estimates for 1992-1993 by major programme of the proposed medium-term plan given in the report of the Secretary-General is only illustrative;

(f) The estimate of resources is presented at 1990-1991 prices and does not include those type of expenditures mentioned in paragraphs 10 and 11 of annex I to resolution 41/213;

(g) The outline of the proposed programme budget should be built on the premise that resolution 41/213 would be fully implemented and that the approved programmes contained in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 would be carried in 1992-1993 against a programme budget whose financing would be strictly observed once it had been approved and appropriated.

(b) Priorities reflecting trends of a broad sectoral nature

27. The Committee noted the proposals of the Secretary-General concerning priorities reflecting trends of a broad sectoral nature in response to the request made by the General Assembly in subparagraph 1 (b) of annex I to resolution 41/213.

28. The Committee also noted that the Secretary-General referred in paragraphs 12 and 13 of his report to the priorities expressed in the introduction to the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

29. The Committee further noted that, in relation with the outline, the introduction to the medium-term plan had indicated priorities on a broader basis. In that regard the Committee recalled that the programme budget was elaborated in the framework of the medium-term plan.

30. The Committee proposes to the General Assembly that it examine priorities reflecting trends of a broad sectoral nature, as suggested in the introduction to the medium-term plan and the outline, taking account of the views expressed by the competent intergovernmental and expert bodies. Particular attention should be paid to the following: maintenance of international peace and security; economic development of developing countries; the economic recovery and development of Africa; the environment, and international drug control.

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget

31. The Committee noted that the proposed real growth, compared with the previous budget, was indicated at zero per cent.

32. The Committee also noted that that real growth had been calculated on the basis of the existing methodology, also used for the presentation of the programme budget. Owing to the shortcomings of the current methodology, the Committee was not in a position to assess precisely the impact of the proposed rate of real growth on mandated programmes of the Organization. The Committee recommends that this methodology, as well as the overall methodology for the preparation of the outline, including the treatment of non-recurrent expenditures and the issue of comparability with programme budgets, be studied further by the Secretariat, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the General Assembly. The Committee, while recognizing the difficulties involved in modifying the current methodology for the preparation of the outline and the programme budget, stresses the need for greater transparency.

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources

33. The Committee, having noted paragraph 18 of the Secretary-General's report, stressed the importance of the contingency fund as an essential aspect of the new budgetary process.

34. The Committee further stressed that the size of the contingency fund, expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources, was to be in addition

to the proposed preliminary estimate of the Secretary-General adjusted in the light of subparagraphs (ii) and (vi) of paragraph 26 above, and taking into account the relevant conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Co-ordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

35. The Committee noted that the General Assembly would at its forty-fifty session take decisions on the use of the contingency fund for the biennium 1990-1991.

36. The Committee further noted that, in accordance with its resolution 44/200 B of 21 December 1989, the General Assembly would review the question of the size and mode of operation of the contingency fund at its forty-sixth session.

37. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly consider the question of the contingency fund in the light of the evolving situation, the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and all relevant decisions.

### C. Questions related to the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991

#### 1. Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the functions and administrative support of the departments having mandates relating to global social development issues

38. At its 64th meeting, on 19 September, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the functions and administrative support of the departments having mandates relating to global social development issues (A/C.5/45/4).

#### Discussion

39. Several delegations expressed the view that the issue under consideration, including all aspects of strengthening the United Nations Office at Vienna, required a global conceptual approach, bearing in mind, in particular, a division of current and emerging activities of the United Nations among Headquarters, Geneva and Vienna and the availability of premises in the Vienna International Centre.

#### Conclusion

40. In the light of the views expressed during the discussion, the Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General.

#### 2. Revised estimates under sections 3, 13, 27, 31 and income section 1

41. At its 66th meeting, on 21 September, the Committee considered the question of revised estimates under sections 3, 13, 27, 31 and income section 1.

## Discussion

42. While expressing their disappointment that the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates under sections 3, 13, 27, 31 and income section 1 was not available in all the official languages and could not, therefore, be considered by the Committee, a number of delegations made informal preliminary comments on the Secretary-General's proposals.

43. Other delegations declared that they were unable to make comments on this item in the absence of the document in all official languages.

44. A number of delegations supported the proposal to continue certain activities related to Namibia until their completion. They also welcomed the proposal to redeploy resources to priority activities related to apartheid and the proposed redeployment of resources for modernization of facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa. They noted, however, that no proposals were made with respect to some of the resources released as a result of the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the programme on Namibia, and expressed the view that those resources should be redeployed to high priority activities, particularly those relating to Africa. Some delegations also noted that the Secretary-General's proposals on the Centre against Apartheid did not reflect fully the views expressed by those delegations during the General Assembly's consideration of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 at its forty-fourth session.

## Conclusions and recommendations

45. The Committee noted with regret that the report of the Secretary-General on the subject had not been available for its consideration. The Committee urged the Secretary-General to ensure that such a situation should not set a precedent for the future. The Committee recommended that the report be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, for its consideration and appropriate action.

## Review of the translation and interpretation services for all official languages in the Economic Commission for Africa

46. At its 66th meeting, on 21 September, the Committee considered the question of translation and interpretation services for all official languages in the Economic Commission for Africa.

## Conclusions and recommendations

47. The Committee noted with regret that the report of the Secretary-General on the subject had not been available for its consideration. The Committee urged the Secretary-General to ensure such a situation should not set a precedent for the future. The Committee recommended that the report be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session for its consideration and appropriate action.

ANNEX I

Agenda for the resumed thirtieth session of the Committee

1. Organization of work.

2. Programme questions:

   (a) Propcsed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

   (c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993;

   (e) Questions related to the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

3. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

ANNEX II

List of documents before the Committee at its resumed thirtieth session

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| A/44/272 | Report of the Secretary-General on all aspects of priority-setting in future outlines of the proposed programme budget |
| A/45/6 (Prog. 45) | Proposed programme for African economic recovery, development and transformation |
| A/45/369 | Report of the Secretary-General containing the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1992-1993 |
| A/C.5/45/2 | Report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates for sections 3, 13, 27, 31 and income section 1 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 |
| A/C.5/45/4 | Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the functioning and administrative support of the departments having mandates related to global social development issues and proposals for the strengthening of the United Nations Office at Vienna |
| E/AC.51/1990/L.5 | Programme of work |
| E/AC.51/1990/L.6 | Status of documentation |
| E/AC.51/1990/L.7 and Add.1-5 | Draft report of the Committee on its resumed thirtieth session |

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